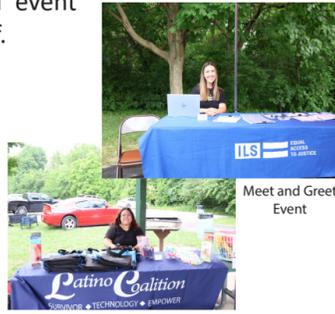


INSPIRE Summer Events

This Summer, our INSPIRE staff worked tirelessly to host two events for its families. INSPIRE is an LCFS program that helps connect families to skills and resources such as higher education, enhanced employment opportunities, increased health and wellness, and expansion of social capital through a 2-gen approach. Both the 'Meet and Greet' event and the 'Back to School' event aimed to bring families together and connect them with more of our staff.

The first event, the 'Meet and Greet' event, was held on June 21st. They welcomed their families at Brookside Park on the east side of Indianapolis. The event also connected families with some of our community partners including:



Meet and Greet Event

- Latino Coalition
- Indiana Legal Services, Inc.
- John Boner Neighborhood Centers
- Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana
- Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.



Back to School Event

The 'Back to School' event, held on July 12th, was held at the Lawrence Township Education & Community Center. This is also where our food pantry, The Sharing Place, is located! Families at this event were able to connect with more community partners, get resources for back to school, and there was even a giveaway.

Classroom Refresh for 2024-2025 School Year

Our maintenance staff worked hard this Summer to refresh the classrooms for our residents for the new school year.

This refresh will help create a more welcoming environment for our residential youth as they enter the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you to our maintenance team for all your hard work!



Lutheran Child and Family Services
1525 N. Ritter Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46219



The Voice is published four times a year to share information about our ministries and programs with all our friends and supporters.

Questions or comments?
Email develop@lutheranfamily.org,
or call (317) 359-5467

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Are you interested in sponsoring our next event?
We are currently seeking sponsors for our upcoming Volunteer Luncheon event to help celebrate our volunteers. For more information contact us at develop@lutheranfamily.org

Stay tuned for more fundraising opportunities!

Subscribe to our Digital Newsletter!
Did you know that we send monthly e-mail newsletters? Stay up-to-date on all things LCFS! To sign up for this, please visit pr@lutheranfamily.org

Volunteering with LCFS

Volunteers are the heart of programs such as The Sharing Place Food Pantry. Thanks to our passionate volunteers we served **55,149** people in 2023. Updates to Sharing Place include:



- We've added the Silver Box program to The Sharing Place!
- There's a new logo for both The Sharing Place and Silver Box
- The Sharing Place has seen a significant increase in clients this year. Because of this, volunteers are needed more than ever



To see what volunteer shifts are currently available, visit our volunteer portal by scanning this QR code or email communityengagement@lutheranfamily.org.



Did you know that SEED also offers volunteer opportunities?

- Adopt-a-Dorm
- Assisting with bible studies
- Coaching our residents in subjects such as STEM or the arts
- Helping with individual events or series of event that showcase educational, vocational, or social growth and support



To learn more about SEED contact Kathy at seed@lutheranfamily.org.

If you're congregation or company participates in any service days, we would greatly appreciate it if you chose LCFS. These service days allow us to not only increase our quality of service but also further our reach in the community.

Do you have a congregation seeking an organization to volunteer with this 'God's Work. Our Hands' Sunday? Join us at The Sharing Place!

To arrange a service day at LCFS or get information on 'God's Work Our Hands.', e-mail communityengagement@lutheranfamily.org or call 317-359-5467 x465.

We look forward to honoring our volunteers this September at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon!

From the Inside Out

As I write this, the sun is setting on the courtyard outside my office window. It is one of two nights per week I work 2nd shift. As Spiritual Life Leader at a 24/7 facility, it is important to be available at all hours. I enjoy these nights, to catch up with the kids, talk with my co-workers, or even just get some work done at my desk.



At the end of May, the empty courtyard I see was filled with residents and staff enjoying an end-of-the-school-year-beginning-of-summer celebration. We had hamster balls, pies in the face and much more. The kids had a great time, and we were all proud of them.

Other times the chaos is less controlled but instead is led by disgruntled, angry, or confused residents. These situations can be loud, dangerous, frustrating, and exhausting. The only celebration comes when no one is seriously injured, and all are safely in bed for the night.



So, in light of what could be, and what other nights have been, I certainly appreciate the calm of this sunset at the moment. It allows me to reflect on what's been happening here on the inside.

This list will offer perspective, but cannot express the totality of the impact...

- One of my coworkers came to me the other day to seek insight on how to share with the kids a lesson in trust and forgiveness he recently learned. What a beautiful testament to how God works through our own experiences to help others.
- In a visit with our new Stop Gap residents, one asked for a Bible. With wide eyes, one after the other realized they, too, could have a Bible and quickly asked for one. They were delivered that day to enthusiastic smiles.
- We have been blessed with regular visits from Magdalene, a Comfort Dog. The kids and staff enjoy her visits immensely!
- Such a joy to hear things like the following from some of the residents: "I'm happy you are here." "I'm gonna miss you when I leave." "Thank you"
- I was surprised by two encounters I had at a recent conference. An employee of DCS (Indiana's Department of Child Services) approached me and thanked me for the work we do with the children sent our way. When I asked another, "Do you know about LCFS?" she answered, "Yes, my daughter spent some time there several years ago". She believes, without a doubt, that it saved her life.

I continue to be amazed with the opportunities God gives to serve him by serving others. Each day is different, each story unique, and every child of God is precious to him.

Thank you for your prayers, for your financial or other support, which lifts us up and helps us continue the work that is needed here at Lutheran Child and Family Services.

In His Peace,
Kathy Witto
Spiritual Life Leader, LCFS



Make the Most of Your Donation

Lutheran Child and Family Services is proud to announce our participation in the Indiana Foster Care Tax Credit! In 2021, the state of Indiana passed the Foster Care Tax Credit. This means that every calendar year there will be **\$2,000,000** available for the purpose of donation to an approved Foster Care Organization. This will be in place until **December 31, 2027**. The maximum amount of credit that can be granted is **50%** of the donation up to **\$10,000**. This is for all donations to one or multiple approved foster care organizations during any one calendar year.

To Qualify you Must

1. Pay Indiana Taxes
2. Donate to an eligible organization
3. Claim their credit in the same taxable year that the donation was made

How to get your Credit

1. Monetarily donate (hyper link to donation website) to Lutheran Child and Family Services.
2. Receive proof of donation from Lutheran Child and Family Services.
3. Submit application and proof of donation to the Indiana Department of Revenue via fax or mail.
4. Receive an approval letter from the Indiana Department of Revenue within 45 days.

I want to learn more!



I want to submit an application



Sign up for Thrivent Choice!

Did you know that you can sign up for a faith-based financial advisor program that can help you build a better future AND create a charitable giving plan?

Thrivent is a holistic financial services organization that can help you do the most with what you've been given. This includes incorporating regular donations to LCFS that can help us continue to build a better future for children and families in our community.

Lutheran Child and Family Services is proud to be a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. This means that as an eligible Thrivent member you can influence Thrivent to distribute some of its charitable grant funding to LCFS through Choice Dollars®. Just log in to your Thrivent account and select 'Lutheran Child and Family Services.'

To learn more about how you can join Thrivent, visit thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836.

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Our Mission:

Engaging and Empowering Families and Community with Love, Compassion, Faith and Support